

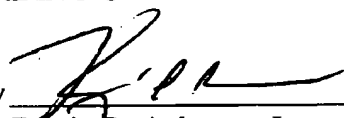
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The Examiner also subjected the application to an election of species requirement, between a) the invention with a circular sealing member; b) the invention with a rectangular sealing member; and c) the invention with a rhombus sealing member.

Applicant hereby elects to prosecution the invention with a rhombus sealing member, as described in paragraph 34. The figures, except Fig. 4, depict the sealing member conforming to the sealing cavity, with Figs. 1, 2, 3, 3A and 5 described as depicting a sealing member with a pre-compressed rhombus cross-sectional shape disposed in the seal cavity (as one of three parallelogram shapes). Thus, claims 1-12, 16-28, and 32-33 read on the elected species.

Respectfully submitted,
BRIAN NOLAN ET AL.

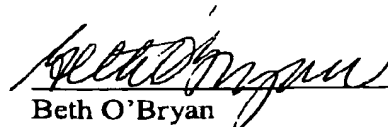
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via Facsimile Transmission to Ms. Roslyn Smith on behalf of Examiner Eric S. Keasel, The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231, at Facsimile No. 703-308-7766, this 8th day of January, 2003.


Beth O'Bryan

APPENDIX

FIG. 1 is an elevational view, partially cross-section, of a valve utilizing the [a] sealing arrangement constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view similar to FIG. 4, but schematically showing an annular sealling member of a different cross-sectional shape from which the annular sealing member of FIGS. 1-3 could be formed.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the cross-sectional shape of the sealing member 52 is at least partially formed by compression of the containment member 12 (valve body in the illustrated embodiment) and joining member 14 (tail section as illustrated). Referring now to FIG. 4, the sealing member 52 is shown with a cross-sectional shape it might have before being compressed by the two members forming the sealing cavity, the valve body 12 and tails section 14 in the illustrated embodiment, a circular cross-sectional shape that differs from the diamond-shaped cross-sectional shape of the cavity 50. As illustrated, the circular cross-sectional shape of the sealing member 52 has dimensions in various directions that do not fit into the cavity 50. When the sealing member 52 of circular cross-sectional shape is interposed into the cavity 50, and the valve body 12 and tail section 14 are moved toward each other to compressingly engage the circular sealing member 52, material from the sealing member 52 is forced to flow into the opposite end portions of the cavity 50 formed respectively by converging walls 60,62 and 64,66. FIG. 5 is similar to FIG. 4, except that the pre-compressed cross-sectional shape of the sealing member 52 is in the form parallelogram, either rectangular, square [of] or rhombus.

5.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 1 wherein the fluid containment member and the joining structure cooperate to compressingly engage the interposed sealing member and to urge the sealing member from a preformed cross-sectional shape to a cross-sectional shape corresponding to the shape of the cavity.

13.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 12 wherein the [second] cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is circular.

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14.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 12 wherein the [second] cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is rectangular.

15.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 14 wherein the [second] cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is square.

16.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 12 wherein the [second] cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is a rhombus.

21.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 18 wherein the valve body and the joining structure cooperate to compressingly engage the interposed sealing member and to urge the sealing member from a preformed cross-sectional shape to a cross-sectional shape corresponding to the shape of the cavity.

22.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 18 wherein the valve body and the joining structure compressingly engage the interposed sealing member to urge material from the sealing member to flow into the converging end portions of the sealing cavity. [[dog bone claim, not to be dependent upon immediately preceding claim]]

29.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 28 wherein the [second] cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is circular.

30.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 28 wherein the [second] cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is rectangular.

31.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 28 wherein the [second] cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is square.

32.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 28 wherein the [second] cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is a rhombus.